

BALDOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year

1964



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (also Divisional M.O.Herts. C.C.)

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

BRIAN G. WILLIS, M.A.P.H.I.

RODENT OPERATOR

J. REDHOUSE

To the Chairman and Members of the Baldock Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

By direction of Ministry Circular 1/65 I submit a report on the health of your district for 1964.

For the year the local birth rate (15.4) shows little change at a figure well below that for England and Wales. The local death rate of 8.3 (against 8.6 for 1963) continues well below the national rate (11.3); application of the local comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General produces a 'standardised' death rate of 10.9.

Locally there occurred only one stillbirth, and for a second year no infant deaths, giving favourable mortality rates. In fact, the figures supplied by the Registrar General records no single death between time of birth and 35 years.

There was again no serious local incidence of infectious disease during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

V. R. WALKER
District Medical Officer of Health

April 1965

SECTION A

LOCAL STATISTICS

| | | |
|--|---------|-----------|
| Area of District | | 542 acres |
| Census 1961 | | 6,764 |
| Population Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1964 | .. | 6,750 |
| Persons per acre - Census 1961 | | 12.5 |
| Number of separately rated hereditaments at 31st March 1965 | | 2564 |
| Number of separate dwellings (included in the above figure) at 31st March 1965 | | 1,939 |
| Rateable Value at 1st April 1965 | | £340,294 |
| Estimated sum represented by a Penny Rate.. | | £1,354 |

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR

THE YEAR 1964

BALDOCK
URBAN
DISTRICT

Comparable Rate
for England and
Wales

LIVE BIRTHS

| | <u>Totals</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 94 | 47 | 47 |
| Illegitimate | 10 | 9 | 1 |
| | <u>104</u> | <u>56</u> | <u>48</u> |

| | | |
|---|------|------|
| Rate per 1,000 population | 15.4 | 18.4 |
| Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births | 9.6% | |

STILL BIRTHS

| | <u>Totals</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 1 | 1 | - |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |

| | | |
|--|-----|------|
| Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births | 9.6 | 16.3 |
|--|-----|------|

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

| <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| 105 | 57 | 48 |

DEATHS

| <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| 56 | 29 | 27 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|------|
| Rate per 1,000 population | 8.3 | 11.3 |
|-----------------------------------|-----|------|

INFANT DEATHS

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Under 1 week | - | - | - |
| At 1-4 weeks | - | - | - |
| At 4-52 weeks | - | - | - |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |

Infant Mortality Rates

| | | |
|--|-----|------|
| Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births | 0.0 | 20.0 |
| Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births | 0.0 | |
| Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births | 0.0 | |

| | | |
|--|-----|------|
| Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) | 0.0 | 13.8 |
|--|-----|------|

| | | |
|---|-----|--|
| Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) | 0.0 | |
|---|-----|--|

| | | |
|---|-----|--|
| Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) | 9.6 | |
|---|-----|--|

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

| | | |
|--|-------|------|
| Number of deaths | None. | |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births | 0.0 | 0.25 |

Comment on Population Changes

The estimated local population was unchanged for the year. Live births (104) were 2 less than for 1963, while deaths (56) were 2 below the figure for the previous year.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

No important change occurred during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1) Water Supply

This is provided by the Lee Valley Water Company and has been of excellent quality and quantity. Regular sampling has been carried out by the Company from their installations supplying Baldock and 192 bacteriological and 11 chemical samples taken during the year were all reported as conforming to the standards of purity suitable for public supply. The estimated population supplied is 6,743 and the number of domestic connections is 1,994.

Direct piped supply is provided to all premises in the district, and there is no evidence of plumbo-solvency.

(2) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The district is covered by a system of sewers and all but three premises are connected to this network. Of these three, two are connected to septic tanks and one to a cesspool.

1672 feet of nine inch and 256 feet of six inch sewer was laid during the year.

(3) Public Cleansing

The weekly collection of refuse has been maintained during the majority of the year. There have been no instances of refuse being dumped to cause a nuisance.

(4) Swimming Pool

The swimming pool, which is privately owned but used by factory employees and school children, has continued to be of great benefit, and regular sampling has shown that the treatment employed has been both effective and satisfactory.

(5) Paddling Pool

Regular treatment of the water in the Council-owned Paddling Pool at Avenue Park has been carried out and a high standard of cleanliness has been maintained.

(6) Rodent and Pest Control

Routine work has been continued and minor infestations treated with complete success. No resistance to warfarin has been experienced and no sewer treatments have been necessary as a result of non-infestation.

During the year, the following work was carried out for the eradication of pests:-

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total rodent infestations found | 69 |
| Total rodent treatments carried out | 101 |
| Total inspections made | 399 |
| Wasp nests destroyed and removed | 31 |
| Other infestations treated | 27 |

(7) Sanitary Inspection of the Area (other than Dwellinghouses and Food Premises)

| | |
|--|----|
| (a) Number of inspections carried out under the Factories Act | 17 |
| (b) Number of inspections carried out in connection with drainage and sewerage. | 41 |
| (c) Number of inspections carried out in connection with water supply and sampling | 15 |
| (d) Miscellaneous inspections | 61 |
| (e) Number of nuisances investigated and dealt with | 23 |
| (f) Number of investigations regarding infectious disease | 8 |

(8) Factories and Workplaces

Routine inspections were made of 17 of the 37 factories and only minor contraventions of the Act and Regulations were found and dealt with informally.

(9) Air Pollution

Observations on all boiler house chimneys have been carried out and two smoke nuisances were detected which were dealt with informally. There are four plants in the area, three oil-fired and one coke fired.

No improvements or alterations to air pollution sources took place during the year.

SECTION D

HOUSING

On the 31st December 1964 the number of applications on the Council's waiting list for housing accommodation was 193, which is a decrease of 4 when compared with the previous year's total of 197.

During 1964, 32 applications were registered, 13 applicants re-housed and 23 applications cancelled.

The number of private dwellings provided by new construction during the year was 3.

3 applications were received for Standard Improvement Grants, but were not granted.

Caravans

The total number of caravans in the district at the end of 1964 was 75. These were all stationed on the approved site at Limekiln Lane development of which was nearing completion by the end of the year. This caravan site is now much improved, not only by the developer, but also by the efforts of the caravan dwellers, whose stands show the attention devoted to them to produce a clean, tidy and attractive area.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

No action was necessary to implement the Housing Regulations 1962.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

| | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses inspected under the Housing and Public Health Acts | 63 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation | 6 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied by owners | 4 |
| (4) | Number of dwelling houses the subject of Closing or Demolition Orders | Nil |
| (5) | Number of filthy or verminous houses | Nil |

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(1) There were no special Clean Food Campaigns, but food shops and food preparing premises were regularly inspected and any necessary advice given. Some informal action of a minor nature was necessary.

(2) The types of food premises are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Butchers | 5 |
| Cafes, restaurants and snack bars | 8 |
| Bakers and confectioners | 4 |
| Fishmongers | 2 |
| Fried fish shop | 1 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Greengrocers and fruiterers | 4 |
| Grocers and provision merchants | 9 |
| Bakehouses | 2 |
| Canteens | 2 |
| Public Houses | 17 |
| Off-licences | 2 |

(3) Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Sale and storage of ice-cream | 18 |
| Manufacture of meat products | 4 |

(4) There are no slaughterhouses in the district

(5) No food poisoning instances were reported in the year.

(6) There are eight registered dealers in milk.

Unsound food

During the year, the following amounts of unsound food were surrendered for condemnation:

| | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Tinned fish | | | 6 lb. | 8 oz |
| Fresh fish | | 1 qr. | 0 lb. | 0 oz |
| Tinned fruit | 1 cwt. | 3 qr. | 14 lb. | 5 oz |
| Tinned vegetables | | | 22 lb. | 9 Oz |
| Tinned meat | 2 cwt. | 1 qr. | 15 lb. | 3 oz |
| Tinned milk | | | 5 lb. | 9 oz |
| Frozen foods | 1 cwt. | 2 qr. | 19 lb. | 1 oz |
| Other | | | 5 lb. | 13 oz |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Total | 6 cwt | 2 qr | 4 lb | 15 oz |
| <hr/> | | | | |

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Total notification of acute infectious diseases during the year numbered (after correction):

Acute Pneumonia 10; Scarlet Fever 8; Whooping Cough 8; Measles 7

Such numbers were relatively small and for each disease the incidence was rather scattered throughout the year.

There was no local occurrence of food poisoning or of any enteric illness.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Against smallpox, efforts continue directed towards securing primary vaccination of infants during the second year of life, the recently revised policy recommended by the Ministry of Health. The changeover from the previously recommended first year of life apparently caused for some time a considerable drop in primary vaccination figures in North Herts., followed by improvement in mid 1964. Figures for the mid quarters of 1964 showed an acceptance rate of over 50% for the second year age. Such rate is of course much below that for children accepting oral anti-poliomyelitis vaccine or TRIPLE vaccine, both offered in the first year of life.

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus continued unchanged in the form of three separate injections of TRIPLE vaccine from the age of three months. An additional (fourth) 'booster' dose is delayed to around 18 months. Total returns show an acceptance rate well above eighty per cent. An additional booster dose is offered at the age of infant school entry omitting the whooping cough fraction, which when repeated at this long interval is found to cause occasional reactions.

Oral vaccine against poliomyelitis, sandwiched in time between the third and fourth doses of the triple vaccine course, continues to have an equally high acceptance rate. A 'booster' dose is offered of such oral vaccines around time of infant school entry.

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and deaths during the year 1964

| Age Periods | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|----------------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
| | Respiratory | | Non-respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-respiratory | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0 - 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2 - 5 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 - 15 | | | | | | | | |
| 15 - 25 | | | | | | | | |
| 25 - 35 | | | | | | | | |
| 35 - 45 | | | | | | | | |
| 45 - 55 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 55 - 65 | | | | | | | | |
| 65 and over | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Not known | | | | | | | | |
| TOTALS | 2 | | | | | | | |

Comment:

Notificatiønns were confined to two respiratory cases, one middle-aged and one elderly male.

No deaths from tuberculosis were locally recorded during the year.

V. R. WALKER

District Medical Officer
of Health

April 1965

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Urban District of Baldock for the year
1964

PART 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

| | Number of Register | Number of | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted. |
| 1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority. | - | - | - | - |
| 2. Factories not included in (1) which S.7 is enforced by Local Authority | 37 | 17 | - | - |
| 3. Other premises in which S.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 37 | 17 | - | - |

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

| | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| | Found | Remedied | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | - | - | - | - | |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | - | - | - | - | |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | - | - | - | - | |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | - | - | - | - | |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | - | - | - | - | |
| Sanitary conveniences (S.7) | | | | | |
| a) Insufficient | - | - | - | - | |
| b) Unsuitable or defective | - | - | - | - | |
| c) Not separate for sexes | - | - | - | - | |
| Other offences against the Act | - | - | - | - | |
| TOTAL | - | - | - | - | -- |

PART VIII of the ACT

Outwork
(Sections 133 and 134)

| Nature of Work | | Section 133 | | Section 134 | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|--|----------------|--------------|
| | No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1)(c) | No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council | No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists | No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises | Notices served | Prosecutions |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. |
| Wearing apparel Making, etc. | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |

V. R. WALKER
District Medical Officer
of Health

April 1965

